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THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
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ACT OF INCORPORATION,

AND

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

ORGANIZED MARCH, 1838,

AT

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE:

PRENTICE AND WEISSINGER, PRINTERS.

1838.

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AN ACT,

To incorporate the Kentucky Historical Society.

Whereas, the collection and preservation of the antiquities of our country, and of memorials and documents, serving to illustrate its history and institutions, or to mark the progress of society, arts and letters in the United states have a tendency to enlarge the sphere of human knowledge, aid in the advancement of science, to perpetuate the history of moral and political events, and to improve and interest posterity: Therefore, be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That John Rowan, George M. Bibb, Henry Pirtle, Geo. D. Prentice, Rev. James F. Clarke, Rev. Benj. O. Peers, Simeon S. Goodwin, George Keats, Professors John H. Harney, James Brown, and Leonard Bliss, Jr., Humphrey Marshall, Sen., Wilkins Tannehill, and Edward Jarvis, M. D., and such others as may associate with them for the purposes aforesaid, be, and they are hereby constituted a society and body politic and corporate in law by the name and style of the Kentucky Historical Society, and that they and their successors and such other persons, as shall be legally elected by them, shall be and continue a body politic and corporate by that name for ever.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the members of said society shall have power to elect a President, Vice Presidents, and such other officers as they may determine to be necessary, and said society shall have one common seal, and the same may break, alter and renew at pleasure, and that the said society by the name aforesaid, as a body politic and corporate, may sue, and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all the courts in this commonwealth.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted; That the said Society shall have power to make rules and by laws for the government of its members, and managing its property, not repugnant to the constitution and laws of this State, and of the United States, and may expel, disfranchise, or suspend any member who by misconduct shall be rendered unworthy.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted; That the said Society may from time to time establish rules for electing officers and members, and also appoint times and places for holding meetings; and shall be capable in law to take and hold real and personal estate, by gift, grant, devise, or otherwise, and the same or any part thereof, to alien and convey; Provided, That the annual income of any real estate held by said Society, shall never exceed the sum of fifteen hundred dollars; and that the personal estate, exclusive of books, papers and articles in the Cabinet of said Society shall never exceed the value of ten thousand dollars.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted; That said Society may elect honorary and corresponding members, residing in and without the limits of the Commonwealth, and that the Honorable Henry Pirtle, of the city of Louisville, be, and he is hereby authorized and empowered to call the first meeting of said Society, at such time and such place in the city of Louisville as he may designate.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted; That the Library and Cabinet of said Society shall be kept in the City of Louisville.

R. P. LETCHER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

C. A. WICKLIFFE,
Speaker of the Senate.

Approved February 1*st*, 1838.

JAMES CLARKE.

By the Governor,
J. M. BULLOCK, Secretary of State.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

ADOPTED MARCH 29, 1838.

ART. I. This Society shall consist of acting, corresponding, and honorary members. The acting members shall be, at the time of their election, inhabitants of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and shall not exceed fifty in number.

ART. II. All elections of members shall be made by ballot, at a stated quarterly meeting of the Society, the candidate having been openly nominated at the preceding quarterly meeting, and his name entered in the Society's records, and two-thirds of the members present voting in his favor. No member shall nominate for active membership more than one candidate at a meeting. This article, however, shall not take effect untill the number of members shall amount to thirty.

ART. III. Each acting member shall pay, as an initiation fee, the sum of five dollars, and the sum of two dollars annually. Any member shall, however, be exempted from the annual payment of two dollars, who shall, at any time, pay to the treasurer the sum of twenty dollars.

ART. IV. The officers of the Society shall be chosen annually by ballot, from the acting members and by them, at the annual meeting on the first Monday in October, and shall consist of a President, First and Second Vice Presidents, a Recording and Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Librarian, who shall constitute an executive committee.

Art. V. The Society shall hold an annual meeting in October, and stated quarterly meetings on the first Monday in January, April and July. The President shall, on the application of any five members, call a special meeting by notice in the public prints.

Art. VI. There shall be chosen at the annual meeting, standing committees on the various leading objects connected with the history of Kentucky.

Art. VII. At the request of any four members, the vote upon any motion, or the ballot upon any nomination of a member, shall be deferred to the next quarterly meeting for further consideration.

Art. VIII. For the election of members, as well as for making alterations in, or additions to, the By-Laws and Regulations of the Society, it shall be necessary that nine members be present, and that two-thirds vote in the affirmative; but for the transaction of other business, seven members shall constitute a quorum.

Art. IX. This Constitution may be altered and amended as the Society shall deem proper; but no amendment shall be adopted except at the annual meeting in October, nor unless such amendment shall have been proposed for discussion at a previous quarterly meeting, and entered on the books of the Society.

Art. X. The first election of officers shall be made at the quarterly meeting in April next, or at such time as that meeting shall adjourn to for the purpose: the officers first elected holding their offices until the first annual meeting in October.

BY-LAWS

OF THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

ADOPTED MARCH 29, 1838.

ART. I. It shall be the duty of the President, or in his absence, of the Vice Presidents in their order, to call, and to preside at all meetings of the Society.

ART. II. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a record of the doings of the Society and of the Executive Committee in separate books, both of which shall be open to the inspection of any member. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, his duty shall be performed by the Corresponding Secretary.

ART. III. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to manage and carry on the correspondence of the Society. He shall enter in a book provided for the purpose, copies of all letters which he shall write, and carefully file and preserve all letters and communications which he shall receive, and deposit them in the Library. In his temporary absence, by sickness or otherwise, the Recording Secretary shall perform his duties.

ART. IV. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect all monies due to the Society, giving certificates of payment to members, to receive all donations or bequests of money made to the Society, and to pay out these monies to the order of the Executive Committee. Of all moneys received and paid out he shall keep a true and faithful account, and at the annual meeting, or oftener if required, shall render a particular account of the same to the Society.

Art. V. It shall be the duty of the Librarian to take charge of all books, pamphlets, manuscripts, letters, papers, and productions of nature or art, which, by purchase, loan, or donation, may come to the Society, and these he shall arrange in classes, keep a catalogue of them, specifying their nature, author, donor, owner, or price and date. He shall send a letter of acknowledgement and thanks for every gift or donation made the Society, and give receipts for all loans and deposites.

Art. VI. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to take charge and oversight of all the property and funds of the Society, to collect by purchase, gift, or loan, such books, pamphlets, papers, manuscripts, letters, &c., as may promote the general objects of the Society; and they shall cause them to be faithfully preserved. They shall bind all pamphlets, manuscripts, and letters, which can be bound, except duplicates, and deposite them in the library. They shall draw on the Treasurer for monies to pay all the ordinary expenses of the Society, and for the purchase of such books, pamphlets, &c., as they are authorized to procure, and shall attend to all other matters which may be for the good of the Society. They shall hold at least quarterly meetings, and keep a faithful record of all their proceedings, which shall be read at the next regular meeting of the Society. Three of this committee shall constitute a quorum.

Art. VII. There shall be chosen at the annual meeting Standing Committees on the following objects as connected with Kentucky, viz: 1. Agriculture,—2. Commerce,—3. Manufactures,—4. Means of travel and communication, as roads, canals, boats, stages, &c.,—5. Growth of towns and increase of population,—6. Education and Literature,—7. Religion and Morals; and on such other objects permanent or special, as the Society may from time to time designate. And it shall be the duty of these several committees to watch, each over the particular objects asssigned to it, to observe the present state and mark the progress thereof, and report on the same to the Society annually; and when approved, these reports shall be adopted by the Society as the history of these objects and deposited in the archives of the Society. These and all other reports shall be made on paper of uniform size, furnished by the Executive Committee, with margins of at least one inch on each side.

Art. VIII. In case of death, removal, or resignation of either of the Secretaries, the Treasurer or Librarian, it shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy, till the next annual meeting of the Society.

Art. IX. No property belonging to the Society shall be suffered to go out of the Library or Cabinet without the unanimous consent of a quorum.

Art. X. These by-laws may be amended at any quarterly meeting by a majority of two-thirds, provided the amendment shall have been proposed for discussion at a previous meeting.

N. B.—Persons elected to active membership become entitled to the privileges of acting members of the Society, on paying to the Treasurer the specified initiation fee.

CIRCULAR ADDRESS.

The objects of the Kentucky Historical Society are the collection and preservation of whatever may relate to the Antiquities, the Natural, Civil, Literary, and Ecclesiastical History of this country, but more particularly the St te of Kentucky and the Mississippi Valley. To promote these objects, the Society earnestly solicit the aid of the liberal, the patriotic, and the learned; and request all who feel disposed to encourage their design, to contribute to their Library or Cabinet such books, papers, documents, &c. as the following:

1. Historical works of any description, particularly works relating to American history, or on subjects in any way connected with it.

2. Original letters, documents, and papers, which serve to illustrate in any way the deeds, habits, manners, customs, and pursuits of the pioneers and early settlers of Kentucky and the other Western States.

3. Journals of Public Bodies, Copies of Records, and Proceedings of Congresses, Legislatures, General Assemblies, Conventions, Political, Literary, Benevolent, or Religious, Treaties and Negotiations with the Indian Tribes, or with any State or Nation.

4. Orations, Sermons, Essays, Discourses, Poems, Tracts, delivered, written, or published, which concern any public transaction, remarkable character, or event.

5. Topographical descriptions of Cities, Towns, Counties, and Districts, with Maps and whatever relates to the progressive geography of the country.

6. Statistical Tables, as tables of population, meteorological observations, and facts relating to climate; tables showing the progress of Agriculture, Commerce, Manufactures, &c.

7. Biographical Memoirs and Anecdotes of distinguished persons in America, particularly in Kentucky and the other Western States.

8. Accounts of Universities, Colleges, Academies, and Schools —their origin, progress, and present state.

9. Original Essays and Disquisitions on the Natural, Civil, Literary, or Ecclesiastical History of any State, City, Town, or District.

10. Facts, Anecdotes, Implements, Dress, Ornaments, &c., illustrative of the history, habits, customs, and rites of the Indians of North America.

11. Surveys, Drawings, Descriptions, and Relics, of the Mounds, Fortifications and Barrows of the West, and copies of the Ancient Inscriptions found on rocks in different parts of the country

12. Magazines, Reviews, Newspapers, and other periodical publications. It is exceedingly desirable, that the Society should possess complete files of all the newspapers printed in this State, and those who may be in possession of files or parts of files, cannot confer a greater favor on the Society, than to place them in the Library.

13. Facts respecting the Navigation of the Western Waters, serving to mark the progressive improvements in boat navigation, its increase, extent, &c.

14. Curious or valuable productions or specimens of Nature or Art.

Books, pamphlets, specimens, &c. designed for the Library or Cabinet of the Society, should be sent to the care of the Librarian. Communications designed for the Society, should be directed to the Corresponding Secretary.

Books, original manuscripts, letters, papers, &c., which would be of value to the Society, but which the possessor does not feel willing, or at liberty to part with, may be made a special deposite, the owner taking of the Librarian a receipt for the books, papers, or other articles so deposited, and having the liberty to withdraw the same at pleasure.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY,
Of the Kentucky Historical Society.

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